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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

6 11. 6/24/10-2157 VNR

FROM

AmConsulate, Strasbourg, France

DEPT NO.

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 28, 1957

REF

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	EUR-5 10/26	R MTR-2 IRC-2 PPT-2 SES-2 R-1 CIA-12 OSA-4 ARMY-4

SUBJECT:

Information Regarding Americans Allegedly Detained in Soviet Union.

On October 15 a person without identification documents, representing himself to be Richard SAWICKI, called at the Consulate. He said he was a Polish National, that he had been until July 1957 a prisoner in the Russian concentration camp of Bulun, in the province of Yakutsk. American fellow prisoners in the camp, he said, had urged him to report their presence therein, at the first American Consulate he could contact after his release. Having been released in July 1957, Sawicki said, he returned to Poland. He had now escaped from Poland and was passing through Strasbourg en route to Barcelona to join his mother. His mother, whose name is apparently also Sawicki, is said to reside at Borta Nitella 17h, Barcelona 8, Spain.

The Americans who were detained in the Bulun camp, Sawicki, stated, were the followings:

- 1) WATSON, Jack of Buffalo, New York, an American Professor of Physics who was captured by the Russians in Vienna in 1949. Sawicki could not recall Professor Watson's street address in Buffalo or the name of the institution with which he had been connected. He said that Professor Watson had been requested by the Russians to teach physics but had refused and therefore had worked as an ordinary laborer in that camp until 1956. In that year had become paralyzed, and was now under treatment in the camp hospital.
- 2) ROZHICKI, Deck }
- 3) WARNER, Stanley } Three American soldiers who had been
- 4) SOROW, Jan } captured in the Korean War.

Since there are several persons at the College of Free Europe whose native language is Polish and who are qualified to pass upon the bona fides of refugees, the Consulate requested the College to receive Sawicki. He was given food and shelter for one night and was questioned by officials of the College who at first were inclined to believe his story. He was given a letter and the Paris Office of the organization was requested to receive him and assist him vis-a-vis the French authorities. However, on the day following his

reception

David A. Thomasson:ima

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reception by the officials of the College, Sawicki stole an automobile which was later found wrecked and in which he left the letter provided by the College authorities. He is now being searched for by the French police. Of course, these circumstances throw a highly suspicious light on the whole of his story. The Consulate had prepared a telegram containing the information about the Americans above set forth, but deferred sending it until Sawicki could be more thoroughly screened. In view of his disappearance the information is therefore being sent by despatch, as it may be entirely worthless. A copy is being sent to the Consulate General in Barcelona with the request that it ascertain discreetly whether in fact the mother of Sawicki resides at the address indicated. Sawicki appears to be about 25 years old. He speaks Polish, Russian, German, French and fairly good English.

David A. Thomasson

David A. Thomasson
American Consul

cc: AmConGeneral Barcelona

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